

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A remote surgery support system, comprising:

an endoscopic imaging means, installed in an operating room, for imaging a region, which undergoes surgery, using an endoscope inserted into a patient's body;

5 a first control means for controlling said endoscopic imaging means and a surgical instrument used for surgery;

an input means for use in inputting a control signal, with which said surgical instrument is controlled, to said first control means;

10 a first signal transmission apparatus for receiving said control signal, which is input using said input means, from said first control means, and converting the signal;

a communication line over which a signal produced by said first signal transmission apparatus is transmitted from said operating room to a control room in a remote place;

15 a second signal transmission apparatus for receiving a signal produced by said first signal transmission apparatus over said transmission line, and converting the signal into a signal corresponding to said signal that has not been converted by said first signal transmission apparatus;

a second control means for receiving said signal from said second signal transmission apparatus; and

20 a display device for displaying an output of said second control means.

2. A remote surgery support system according to claim 1, further comprising a third signal transmission apparatus for transmitting information to said second signal transmission apparatus, and a medical information accumulating means for accumulating information transmitted from said first and third signal

5 transmission apparatuses to said second signal transmission apparatus with relevant information items associated with one another.

3. A remote surgery support system according to claim 1, wherein:

said endoscopic imaging means, surgical instrument, and input means are installed in said operating room; and

5 said information accumulating means for accumulating information sent from a plurality of apparatuses, including said endoscopic imaging means, surgical instrument, and input means, and a clinical record editing means, for editing information accumulated in said information accumulating means so as to produce clinical record information concerning said patient, are installed in said control room.